

# Spark Gap

Volume 25, Issue 9, September 2008 MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years

## Fun, Food, Elections and an Ant Hill



Jack Parker, W8ISH,  
President, MARC

*The Official  
Newsletter of the  
Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club*

**MARC**

Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club  
P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

**ELECTIONS:** At the August meeting the nominating committee recommended this slate for election: President Jack Parker W8ISH; Vice President Dave Daily KB9LOT; Treasurer Steve Carmean K9DY; Secretary Jacki Fredericks KI6QOG; and Repeater Trustee Jay Chrisman AA9YP.

We had a floor nomination for repeater trustee which meant ballots needed to be sent out. That will not happen. We were in error in taking another nomination for repeater trustee. Jay AA9YP was elected for a three year term beginning August 2007. As a result there is no reason for a ballot to determine the trustee position.

**FOOD:** All officers will be sworn in during the September 20th picnic at the Union Christian Church shelter in Franklin. The picnic begins at 11AM with food served around Noon or as soon as the VE Team arrives from Franklin. There will be testing at the EOC beginning at 8:30AM.



A photo from last year's picnic at Union Christian Church.

**FUN:** Here are directions to the church at 1267 East County Road 300 South, southwest of Franklin. County Road 300 South can be reached by taking 31 to Nineveh Road in Franklin, and taking Nineveh Road to 300 South. The church can also be reached by taking State Road 135 south to 300 South, and turning Left. For our friends down south, you can reach County Road 300 South by taking Nineveh Road north from State Road 252. The church is on the south side of the road. Talk in on 146.835 repeater.

**ANT HILL:** Steve Carmean K9DY will be participating in the Indpls Radio Club's annual Hilltop contest. Our Hilltop located at the church picnic shelter has been officially dubbed the Ant Hill. The contest runs from 8AM-12 Noon Sept 20th. Steve said anyone interested in participating should contact him at 889-1977 or [k9dy@arrl.net](mailto:k9dy@arrl.net). This is a short, fun contest and leads right into our annual picnic.

We hope to see you there. 73, -w8ish

# ARRL Section News

## IN-ARRL SECTION NEWS - BALLOTS WILL BE SENT SOON

Just a reminder that the nominations for the position of Indiana ARRL Section Manager will be open until September 5th, 2008. The new SM will be installed in January 2009 and will serve for 18 months. The next SM election will then be held in June of 2010.

Remember, you must be a current ARRL member to run for any ARRL position, and you must be an ARRL member to be eligible to vote in this, and all ARRL elections. More information on the SM nomination/election process and procedures are found at this link: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/smterms.html>.

So far to the best of my knowledge we only have two candidates running:  
John Poindexter W3ML - Knox Indiana  
<http://www.w3ml.com/>

Ray Andrews K9DUR - West Terre Haute Indiana <http://www.qsl.net/k9dur/>

Brian Murrey - KB9BVN  
IN-ARRL Bulletin Manager

## IRCC News

The next meeting of the Indiana Radio Club Council (IRCC) will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the WISH-TV studios in Indianapolis, IN.

All Indiana clubs are invited to join and participate in the IRCC. Each member club may send club representatives to the biannual meeting. All interested attendees will be treated to a tour of the WISH-TV studios by Jack Parker, W8ISH.

# IMS Radio News

This update is from Brian Smith, W9IND and the IMS Radio Club.

Our third and final special event of the year, commemorating the first-ever MotoGP motorcycle race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, will be going on throughout the weekend of September 12-14, especially between Friday night and Sunday afternoon. Feel free to drop by and perhaps even operate at our Comm Center, located near 34th and Keystone.

Directions are simple: Starting at that intersection, just go east on 34th Street, slow down when you see Olney Street and turn right (south) at the next street, Gale, even though it says DEAD END. Continue south for a block (it'll look like a country lane) until you run out of road. Then park your car in the grass to the right (in front of the vacant home). The Comm Center is the first building on your left. If you'd rather MapQuest it, the address is 3321 N. Gale Street.

## Chick Factor

For those of you who have not heard about the new Indianapolis based amateur radio organization, there is a new group for YLs only. YL being a "young lady" of any age (7 to 107).

Chick Factor International (W9YL) has been formed to fire up interest and excitement amongst amateur radio in order to increase the number of women within our ranks. Their slogan is "All Chicks, All the Time" and the group is currently working on plans for a Chick Factor QSO Party. Located with its big brother, W9IMS, you can find more information at their website; <http://www.freewebs.com/chickfactor/>.

Check it out and request a copy of their first newsletter. Information on how to join is also listed on the website. Sounds like fun and a great way to get more YLs on the air.

## Officers

**President:**  
Jack Parker,  
W8ISH

**Vice President:**  
Dave Daily,  
KB9LOT

**Secretary:**  
Carol Osborne,  
KC9CFK

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Carmean,  
K9DY

**Repeater Trustee:**  
Jay Chrisman,  
AA9YP

**Spark Gap Editors:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

Linda  
Harshbarger,  
KC9GCH

## Hamfest Info

The **50th Annual Peoria Superfest** will be held on September 20-21, 2008 at the Exposition Gardens in Peoria, Illinois. Hamfest hours are 7:00 AM to Dusk on Saturday and 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Sunday. Talk-in will be on 147.075+ (103.5 PL). Tickets at the gate are \$8.00. The hamfest will include a D-Star forum and demo on Saturday along with an Emergency Communication Vehicle display. A special events station commemorating the Superfest 50th anniversary will be held each day from 1600Z-0000A on the 14.240 and 7.240 MHz.

The **Greenfield Indiana Hamfest** will be held on Sunday, September 28, 2008 at the Hancock County 4H Fairgrounds in Greenfield, Indiana. Hamfest hours are from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Admission is \$4.00 with children 12 and under free. Talk-in is on 145.330 simplex. For more information contact Mike, NE9O at [mjmal@att.net](mailto:mjmal@att.net).

The **47th Annual Hoosier Hills Hamfest** will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at the Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds in Bedford, Indiana. Hamfest hours are from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM EDT. Talk-in is at 146.730 - MHz (107.2 Hz PL). Admission is \$8.00 with children 12 and under free. For more information go to [www.hoosierhillshamfest.org](http://www.hoosierhillshamfest.org).

The **Dad's Day LCARC Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, Indiana. Hamfest hours are from 8:00 AM until whenever. Talk-in is on the 147.00 repeater or 146.52 simplex. Admission is \$5.00. For more information go to [www.qsl.net/w9li/index.html](http://www.qsl.net/w9li/index.html).

Coming up in November are the Fort Wayne and Evansville Hamfests. More information will be available in the next issue and Linda will have copies of their flyers available at the next two MARC meetings.

If you know of any other Indiana hamfests coming up, please contact Linda at [PIO@midstatehams.org](mailto:PIO@midstatehams.org).

## VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org) for directions.

**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL**  
**Tone**

**Weekly Net**  
**Every Sunday**  
**at 7PM ET**

**Tune in to hear**  
**the ARRL**  
**Newsline!**

## Technician Class

Fall classes should begin sometime the last week of October. As soon as a firm start date is known, information will be placed on our website. The class schedule will include 1 class per week for 4 weeks (6:30 PM to 8:30 PM). The club will again be purchasing books so if you know someone who wants to attend, have them get a hold of KC9GCH, Linda at 887-2558. Classes are limited to 14 students.

Linda will be firming up the start date in the next couple of weeks and securing instructors. If you haven't yet taught a class but would like to do so, please let her know. The manual includes 7 chapters and we try to have a different instructor for each chapter.

## Volunteer Info

MARC's next event will be the Greenwood High School Band Contest on September 27, 2008 where volunteers are needed to direct traffic, park cars and provide communications. To volunteer, please contact Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, at [N9SIU@yahoo.com](mailto:N9SIU@yahoo.com) or Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, at [pio@midstatehams.org](mailto:pio@midstatehams.org).

*The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.*

# 2008 Schedule of Events

## SEPTEMBER 2008

### Sept. National Preparedness Month

1 Labor Day

11 Patriot Day

### 20 MARC Meeting/Picnic/Election of Officers - 11 AM

Picnic/meeting at Union Christian Church, 1267 East County Road 300 South, Franklin, IN  
Families and friends are welcome. RSVP to Steve Carmean, K9DY, at  
treasurer@midstatehams.org. VEC Testing prior to the picnic (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)  
at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

### 20 Hilltoppers On the Air event 8:00 AM until 12:00 Noon

MARC will participate as the Ant Hill Operation. Location same as the picnic listed above.

### 20-21 50th Annual Peoria, IL Superfest, Saturday 7:00 AM - Dusk;

Sunday 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM Exposition Gardens, 1601 W. Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL,  
Talk-in on 147.075+ (PL103.5)

### 20 Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day

22 Autumn begins

### 27 Greenwood Band Contest

Greenwood High School, Greenwood, IN 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM

Please contact Bob LaGrange at N9SIU@yahoo.com

### 28 Greenfield, IN Hamfest, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Hancock County 4H Fairgrounds, Talk-in on 145.330

## OCTOBER 2008

### 4 ARRL SET

More information available next month or visit [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for information.

### 4 IRCC - Indiana Radio Club Council Meeting - 2:00 PM

Bi-annual business meeting at WISH Studios in Indianapolis, IN. For more information  
contact Jack Parker, W8ISH at [president@midstatehams.org](mailto:president@midstatehams.org).

### 5 Hoosier Hills Hamfest, Lawrence County 4H Fair Grounds, Bedford, IN

6:00 AM to 2:00 PM; Talk-in on 146.730 (-) (107.2 PL). For more information contact  
[chairman@hoosierhillshamfest.org](mailto:chairman@hoosierhillshamfest.org)

### 11 Dad's Day Hamfest, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN

Talk-in on 147.00 (PL 131.8) or 146.52 Simplex. For more information contact Rich Gilles,  
156 S. Ridge Street, Crown Point, IN 46307-4179

### 18 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road,  
Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

### 31 Halloween - Goblin Patrol

For more information contact Dave Dailey at [vicepresident@midstatehams.org](mailto:vicepresident@midstatehams.org)

## Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month  
in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111  
Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

**See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our  
meeting.**



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*Spark Gap*